

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:347

ANSWERED ON:19.12.2011

DECLINE IN NUMBER OF SPARROWS AND BEES

Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane;Yadav Shri Om Prakash

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Electro Magnetic Radiation (EMR) from communication towers has been found to be one of the causes of decline in the number of sparrows and bees in the country;
- (b) if so, the measures taken to protect the lives of sparrows and bees;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to formulate a law to protect the flora and fauna from EMR in the country both in the rural and the urban areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO 347 REGARDING 'DECLINE IN NUMBER OF SPARROWS AND BEES' BY SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV AND SHRI SONAWANE PRATAP NARAYANRAO DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.12.2011.

(a) &(b) An Expert Group comprising wildlife scientists, bird experts and physicists from reputed institutions was constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests in August 2010 to study the 'possible impacts of communication towers on wildlife including birds and bees'. The group in its report submitted to the Ministry in September 2011 confirms the adverse effects of electro magnetic radiations (EMR) from mobile phones and communication towers on the health of human beings. However, it also points out that exact co-relation between radiation of communication towers and health of wildlife is so far not established. The report also states that although existing literature depicts adverse effects of electro magnetic (EMR) on the biological systems of living beings, more research is required to assess the true impact of EMR on free-living floral and faunal species, including birds and bees in the country.

(c)&(d) Since, more studies are required to study the true impact of EMR on wildlife flora and fauna, including birds and bees, it is not advisable to formulate laws on the subject at this stage.